THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ELY.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1940.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report on the health of your district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J.F. DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health :-	J.F. DAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector :-	A.E. King, M.S.E., F.F.A.S., F.F.Sc., (Lond.)
Meat Inspector :-	James G. Runciman, M.R.C.V.S.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	14,764
Resident Population (Registrar General's estimated,1940)	9,407
Number of inhabited houses	2,600
Rateable value	£40,071
Amount represented by 1d. rate	£157,10s.3d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births.	Legitimate	116	62	54	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1940 13.28
	Illegitimate	9	5	4	
Stillbirths		7	6	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 53.03
Deaths		132	65	67	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population 14.03

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Deaths Rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	53.03
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111.11

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	25
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

Laboratory Facilities.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory carry out bacteriological examination of specimens submitted to them.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious cases are removed to Hospital in the Ely Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

For non-infectious and accident cases the Urban District has its own ambulance. This does not include the transport to Sanatorium of patients suffering from Tuberculosis.

Since the commencement of the war, 6 vehicles have been fitted out as ambulances which will be used in the event of casualties occurring as the result of air raids.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is carried out by 4 district nurses.

Emergency Maternity Home.

An Emergency Maternity Home for the treatment of expectant mothers evacuated from danger areas accommodates 20 patients.

Clinics.

Under the administration of the Isle of Ely County Council, a Chest Clinic is held at the Downham Road Clinic, Ely, weekly. A School Clinic and a Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic is held once a week in Ely.

Hospitals.

The Public Assistance Institution at Ely is available for medical cases. It is a class II Hospital under the Emergency Hospital Scheme.

Ely Urban and Rural Joint Isolation Hospital is available for treatment of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

It is most regrettable that there is no accommodation for the hospital treatment of Measles. This is the most killing disease of childhood and yet there are no facilities in the City for treating complicated cases. The Isolation Hospital has no accommodation for the treatment of Whooping Cough.

A Sick Bay for nursing non-infectious sick evacuees was opened during the year. It accommodates 20 children and has a qualified nurse and an assistant nurse as staff. A local Doctor is the Medical Officer in charge.

Air Raid Precautions.

As a result of the war there has been established a First Aid Post and a Mobile Unit, each in the charge of a Medical Officer. These will deal with casualties resulting from air raids if such casualties occur in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops are inspected frequently to see that the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, are being complied with. The general standard is good but some of the premises do not come up to the requirements of the Order.

Meat and other Foods.

Every effort is made to ensure that all meat slaughtered in this district is examined prior to being offered for sale for human consumption. Shops, stalls and vehicles are periodically inspected in order to see that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are being complied with.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal System during the year has been improved, a new Sludge Pump, driven by a Fordson Tractor was installed at the Sewage Tanks and the emptying is now done by this method instead of the old method of hand emptying which was carried out every four months. By the new method the tanks are now emptied every fortnight. The sludge is pumped to a lagoon at Willow Walk Tip.

Water Supply.

A new scheme for an auxiliary water supply utilizing river water through the purification plant at the Swimming Pool has been carried out. This is intended to be used should severe war damage occur to our Water Works or pumping main.

Housing.

There still remains a large number of houses occupied which are unfit for human habitation. The war has however put a stop to any work that might have been done in this direction. Several empty houses have been requisitioned and are used to accommodate evacuees.

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in the Urban District.

Notifiable Diseases during 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Groups												Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over		
mallpox															
carlet Fever	23					1	13	7	2					23	
iphtheria	6						3		1	2				6	
nteric Fever															
uerperal Pyrexia															
neumonia	14	1				1	1			1		3	7		8
easles	13	1	1	1	1		6	2		1					
hooping Cough	50	3	8	4	6	3	24	2						1	

Of the 23 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 19 of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year. On investigation it could not be proved that these cases had a common source; it is probable that the severe weather at this period had the effect of lowering the resistance of the children, a number of whom were refugees, with the result that they were more susceptible to infection.

Only 13 cases of Measles were reported; we may expect a big increase in the incidence of this disease during the year 1941.

Table showing incidence of Tuberculosis during 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-			1				1	
1-			1	2				
5-			3	1				
5-								
5-	2	1						
5-	1				1			
5-					1		1	
5-	1					1		
5 and upwards								
Totals:	4	1	5	3	2	1	2	

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 596 or 47.52% of the Ely school children and 245 or 29.68% of the evacuee children were immunised.

Publicity in every possible way has been given to the importance of parents having their children protected against Diphtheria. The Government has done everything with the exception of making immunisation compulsory. It is now up to the parents to co-operate in stamping out this disease; only 8.05% of the parents have consented to have their younger children (those between 1 & 5 years) protected, and it is during this period that Diphtheria takes its greatest toll of life. I appeal to parents to allow their children to be safeguarded against this disease.
